

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 16, 1898, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. May 16th, 1898.

My dear Alec:

I got up so early this morning I thought I should have time for a good letter to you, but Margaret brought me the newspaper, and that was the end of my letter writing. Not that there was anything especial in it, but it took me until breakfast to find that out, and then I had to superintend the people all day. Again this evening instead of having a quiet time to write I had to help entertain Mr. Powell — or rather allow him to entertain me, as he brought his Japanese photographs to show me. They are really very fine and beautiful. Many of them are like some I have seen before, but a few are quite new and very unique, and revive my desire to see those wonders for myself. Mr. Powell called to make his adieus on being appointed on the New York patrol fleet under Rear Admiral Erben. I rather like the young fellow, I think he is manly and unpretentious. Elsie says he is a grandson of Gen. Phil Kearney, one of our cavalry officers, and related to Major Anderson of Fort Sumpter, and he said that if we went to Japan via Vancouvia we should go by his pilot chart.

I had such a nice long letter from you today. I am distressed about my trees, and that the mice should have been allowed to increase. I did order a cat last fall, and we had one, but I do not see the necessity of keeping it in the house, certainly not now. Please find out what they are doing to save the trees and exterminate the rats. They ought to put paris green around. It makes me long to be up to see about things for myself, yet I am quite sure that if you are well I ought to stay. I know Mamma wants me and when I think 2 how much I owe her, I do feel I ought to stay if I can. I enclose herewith extract from Miss Yale's letter to Mamma. I did not think necessary to copy the whole as she said she had written the

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same to you only more fully. I will telegraph substance to you tomorrow. Mamma says she asked Miss Yale as strongly as she could, and she can do no more, she would not take the responsibility of having Miss Yale come at her personal request against her better judgement, and I said I should feel the same. Mamma is undoubtedly struck by Miss Yale's arguments and I told her of course they were good, but I remembered that she always was the one to hold back and that she always would see more reasons for keeping in the dark than for coming forward — so I discounted her objections partly on that ground. Then I thought that as the audience were trained teachers they would be quite able to make due allowances for the difference between mature men of Gallaudet and young boys of Clark. That is long as you had started to go as you wanted, to have the best possible, and I did not think its causing “bitter feelings” should prevent Miss Yale doing the best to show what oral teaching was capable of. It was not a “trial of strength” but a mustering of examples of each system and leaving the impartial public to judge. I think what I said made some impression on her. I am so glad you are better and so sorry Mr. Ellis has gone, as I fear this will mean the end of you wandering over the hills. What about the new fashioned horse bedding?

Ever yours, Mabel.